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EMBASSY

LISBON, PORTUGAL (AP) -- SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER HAS HAD THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL REMOVED AND HAS REPLACED HIM WITH A CAREER DIPLOMAT CLOSE TO THE WHITE HOUSE, DIPLOMATIC SOURCES REPORTED TODAY.

THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL COMMENT IN WASHINGTON, BUT STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCES SAID THEY BELIEVED THE REPORT TO BE TRUE.

AMBASSADOR STUART WASH SCOTT, A 67-YEAR-OLD LAWYER WHO TOOK UP HIS POST LAST JANUARY, WAS TOLD TWO WEEKS AGO HIS ASSIGNMENT WAS ENDED, THE LISBON SOURCES SAID.

HE WILL BE REPLACED BY FRANK CARLUCCI, A HIGHLY REGARDED DIPLOMAT CURRENTLY SERVING IN PRESIDENT FORD'S ADMINISTRATION AS UNDERSECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE, THEY ADDED.

IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT SCOTT, A FORMER NEW YORK LAW PARTNER OF THE LATE THOMAS E. DEWEY, WAS GIVEN NO REASON FOR HIS ABRUPT DISMISSAL. THE SOURCES SAID A WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE CHANGE WAS EXPECTED THIS WEEK.

THE SHAKEUP FOLLOWS THE VISIT TO LISBON LAST MONTH OF A FOUR-MAN FACT-FINDING TEAM SENT BY KISSINGER TO DOUBLE-CHECK REPORTS THE EMBASSY HAD BEEN FILING TO WASHINGTON ON PORTUGAL'S INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS.

KISSINGER WAS SAID TO HAVE EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM ABOUT REPORTS FROM THE LISBON EMBASSY THAT PLAYED DOWN THE DANGERS OF A POSSIBLE TAKEOVER BY PORTUGAL'S ACTIVE COMMUNIST PARTY, WHICH EMERGED FROM UNDERGROUND TO CLAIM A CABINET POST AFTER LAST APRIL'S COUP THAT OVERTHREW THE OLD RIGHTIST REGIME.

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